

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address September 8, 2017 Providing Relief to Victims of Hurricane Harvey

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Our neighbors in southeast Texas and Louisiana are continuing to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. This week, Congress approved emergency funding to help those who have sustained losses. While some of these losses will be covered by insurance, this initial supplemental emergency funding will pay for rescue efforts and the first steps of the recovery process.

The road to recovery for the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey will be long. This aid package is by no means the end of the process, but rather the first step. Even as the flood waters recede, we do not know the full extent of the damage sustained in the wake of the storm. Congress must ensure these appropriations are used only for what they are intended – emergency disaster relief.

For long-term recovery, Congress must use the normal Appropriations process. Even while we work to help our neighbors in need, we need to remain good stewards of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars.

I am grateful for all the officials and volunteers that have traveled to southeast Texas and Louisiana to help residents rebuild, and for all the Americans throughout the country that have contributed to the rescue and recovery cause.

This week we are watching Hurricane Irma approach Florida and the East Coast. Texans appreciate the help Americans have given to us in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, and we offer our support and well wishes to those in the path of Hurricane Irma. Despite the long road to recovery we all must face after a hurricane, we will overcome and restore our communities. Difficult times often show the best of America, and I am proud of our country's effort to unite behind those impacted by these storms.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.